

JM: Now, I am very curious to know—you said that you had—you had worked with somebody, um, who worked in the Old Main building and had been in the clocktower? (31 MINUTES)

JRS: Yes, yes. I had—I—my first, ah, very first job as a student worker was as an assistant to a janitor for part of Old Main, and one of his duties was winding the, ah, big clock weekly. It consisted of climbing up the stairway from the third floor, up through a trap door and up through a couple three flights higher, and, ah, cranking or pulling the weights back so that they would gradually keep time for another week and cause the bells to strike on, ah, the half hour and the hour.

JM: Do you remember anything about the mechanisms up there?

JRS: Well, there was a huge pulley—pulley and weights and huge gears that were the way that the old clocks in the---years ago were built. There were, ah, a set of gears that went around. Each slip of the gear was a tick of a minute. I don't think there were exact seconds, but so many of them would be a minute or whatever.

JM: So, just a tick-tock on the clock.

JRS: Yeah. And it would turn—work around, and the weight—big heavy weights—pulling down like in a cuckoo clock magnified...

JM: Wow.

JRS: ...ah, would cause the wheels to turn. So, as they pulled down, then, they had to be, ah, pulled back up at the end of the week so they wouldn't—so the clocks wouldn't quit.